



# Silent Mermaid

*Brittany Fichter*

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**Silent Mermaid** Brittany Fichter

**How does a silent mermaid win a war of song? How does she break the siren song of another that holds her beloved captive?**

After being touched by the sun at birth, Princess Arianna has grown up imprisoned between two worlds, neither fully mermaid nor fully human. Her life is one of solitude and dreams. But when she loses her family and her kingdom in a war between man and merfolk, she is forced to flee into the arms of the very people who want nothing to do with her kind. Her only hope of protection lies in the penniless prince that she once saved and his two boisterous nieces.

Prince Michael is at his wit's end. After the great maritime war, he must clean up the pieces of neglect, folly, and evil that his grandfather has left behind. With his people starving and his treasury nearly empty, the familiar girl from the past that falls piteously at his feet cannot be afforded his attention. He has only the resources and time for the barest of good deeds to pay back that which she gave him. But the more Michael begins to hear the girl beneath her silence, the more he realizes she just might be the distraction he cannot survive without.

All the while, a darkness is beginning to poison the ocean, and an evil foreseen by neither Arianna nor Michael threatens the very existence of both peoples. If they wish to restore their kingdoms, Arianna and Michael will need to reassess their alliances, their beliefs, and an ancient prophecy that's been all but forgotten. Most importantly, however, they will need to decide whether or not they can move past their personal pain and trust one another. Because if they can't, everything and everyone they love will fall.

Buy Silent Mermaid to escape into the world of the Classical Kingdoms Collection, a set of fairy tale retellings for grownups who still believe in sacrifice, true love, and the magic of happily-ever-afters. Silent Mermaid is fifth in the Classical Kingdoms Collection but can be read as a stand-alone book.

## Silent Mermaid Details

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## From Reader Review Silent Mermaid for online ebook

### Lisa Dawn says

When I first wrote *Of Land and Sea: The Untold Story of The Little Mermaid* in 2009, I never would have expected to be reading so many new adaptations of "The Little Mermaid" years later. As much as I enjoyed *The Little Selkie* by K.M. Shea and *A Little Mermaid* by Aya Ling, I must eventually come to terms with the fact that my vision won't always coalesce with every other author's vision of my favorite fairy tale. Sadly, this turned out to be the case for *Silent Mermaid* by Brittany Fichter. It was significantly longer than the other adaptations I've read, but that was to be expected considering how long *The Autumn Fairy*, the other book I read by her, was. However, I regret to admit that I enjoyed *The Autumn Fairy* significantly more than this convoluted retelling of "The Little Mermaid."

*Silent Mermaid* puts its own spin on "The Little Mermaid" tale by telling the story of a mermaid who was born without a voice as opposed to one who gave it away of her own free will. Arianna wants nothing more than to be like the rest of her family and sing magical songs with the power to help, heal, and protect other merfolk. Instead, she was born mute like the heroine from *The Shape of Water* and is destined to stick out from all of the other mermaids with her tan skin and blonde hair, deformities caused by her early exposure to sunlight. When her family is attacked by pirates, she has no choice but to escape to the surface world where she miraculously gains legs and is discovered by a prince named Michael. She is then reluctantly given a suite in the castle and hideous clothes by a queen who openly dislikes her.

The lack of romance and sacrifice in this book sets it apart from other adaptations of "The Little Mermaid," but not in a good way. Arianna becomes human out of necessity, not desire, and she obtains her legs by praying to the Maker when she is placed in an impossible situation. It is not very clear how difficult it is for merpeople to obtain legs in this world or even why the ability exists at all. Her relationship with Prince Michael is rocky at the beginning, but they eventually warm up to each other. It doesn't help that his mother detests her. Though Michael feels somewhat indebted to Arianna for saving his nieces several years before, he has a rather funny way of showing it. His two nieces are rambunctious and fun, and Arianna winds up being their caretaker just like Alyssa in Melanie Cellier's *The Princess Companion*. Arianna seems to have a stronger relationship with the two little girls than she does with the prince, which is unfortunate considering how powerful the love story between Katy and Michael was in Brittany's other book, *The Autumn Fairy*.

The plot twist of making Arianna's jealous aunt want to take over the merpeople's throne has already been done to death in the mermaid Barbie movies and the Filipino drama *Dysebel*. Ursula was even going to be Ariel's aunt in an original cut of Disney's *The Little Mermaid*. Renata does not reveal herself as the villain until late in the book, which should allow more time to develop the romantic subplot between Arianna and Michael, but instead, the story just drags along like gentle waves crashing along the shore. Renata, Arianna's evil aunt, obtains her power from some sort of mysterious underwater drug that's similar to Merillia from the Barbie in a Mermaid Tale movies. For such a long book, few of the magical elements are actually explained, such as where Arianna's legs come from, how she obtains her voice, and what sort of properties are possessed by the drug her aunt uses to gain her powers.

I really wanted to enjoy this book, but it lacked something precious that rests within the heart of all "Little Mermaid" tales. Arianna doesn't seem to have the passion or drive to go after what she wants. She is just an unfortunate mermaid placed under unfortunate circumstances with a destiny that had been predetermined for her before she was born. The other thing I found difficult to enjoy is that the story takes place in a very dark world. Many merfolk were brutally murdered in the opening chapters in the war between the humans and the

mermaids. It made the story seem all too real to create the whimsical escape that I enjoy from stories about mermaid princesses. The hatred between the two races seemed to know no bounds. It was Arianna's duty, not her choice, to mend it thanks to a mysterious prophecy about her. Something about that made her feel like a pawn in her own story, far from the rebellious and passionate character that Hans Christian Andersen created hundreds of years ago.

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### **Becky says**

Brittany Fichter does a great job of writing, and retelling these fairy tales in a way that fleshes out the characters. She seems to have Christian influences in her writing, e.g. The Maker, and themes addressing faith issues, but she does so in a way I would not consider "preachy". Her books are a very long read, but are well plotted and worth it in my opinion.

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### **Sarina says**

3.5 stars.

I liked the spin on the disney and original versions of the story, regarding the triton weilder, the transformation of a human to merperson to human again. I liked the tale of the child of sun and the child of sea. There were a few times I wanted to shake the main characters, but the story was strong to pull them through... to a nice ending. It would be even more memorable if there were some bittersweet parts in the ending, but the author wrapped things up neatly, just as I normally prefer. (Who am I kidding? I love happy endings!)

I had gotten this book as a giveaway, and as a gift from the author. I am so so glad I did. I finally got time to really start the book in the morning, and it's past midnight that I finished the book, in between daily chores and my religious activities.

And..... It's been a long time since I got this much immersed in a fairytale retelling for a whole day.

Hmm. Changing my rating to 3.8 stars, rounding up to a Goodreads score of 4.

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### **Bethlyn says**

#### **A thrilling page turner**

I couldn't put this down, this takes the modern Disney version of the story and drops it on it's head. Arianna is an inspiring well thought out character that feels more real than any other version of the little mermaid has ever produced. I highly recommend this book- it will be what you least expect in the best way possible.

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### **Laura says**

Absolutely loved this one! It's a beautiful and unique retelling of the Little Mermaid. There were so many characters that I loved in this one. I wanted to slap Arianna's aunt by the end of the book!

Throughout this series the strong themes of trusting the Maker have reminded me of Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust

in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths." It's a beautiful and often needed reminder!

Can't wait to read more of this series!

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### **Ashley Stangl says**

It's always a pleasant surprise to find an indie fairy tale retelling that reads like a real novel rather than a fanfic that costs money. This book has imaginative worldbuilding and some excellent characters. I especially liked the first half of the book, with the main character's unique disabilities and the intricate political plotline.

The story becomes more muddled once the villain shows up and entangles the story in complicated plans that don't quite make sense. Also, some of the MC's problems are solved too easily, some of the kissing scenes get a bit too close to steamy, and there are some slightly distracting errors in research or worldbuilding logic. But it was overall a very pleasant, sophisticated fairy tale retelling, and one of the best Little Mermaid retellings I've come across.

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### **Arielle Pettis says**

#### **Amazing retelling**

I have always been a fan of little mermaid, but this retelling was truly astounding!! It was sad, and happy, and thrilling all mixed together!! This book was defiantly one that kept me hooked until I could see it to the end. And I absolutely loved the ending!!

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### **Kendra Parker says**

This was quite possibly the best retelling of the Little Mermaid that I have ever found. I really enjoyed the way that Fichter embraced the spirit of the story and incorporated the elements in a fresh way.

I could feel the pain of Arianna as she lived most of her life without anyone really caring for her. The rejection of her family and society also were elements that touched my soul. When the action really picked up toward the end of the book, I felt the pace quicken and it became really hard to set down the book.

If you love fairy tale retelling, don't miss this one. Fichter is a master at weaving these tales into new, fresh stories.

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### **Pam Kennedy says**

#### **A wonderful, fresh take on The Little Mermaid**

This multidimensional story provides more background and insight than Disney's version did. Born with a

disability after she took her first breaths on sand and unfazed by the sun, Arianna struggles in a society where identity is based in song the ability to swim near the ocean floor. This mute, strong willed, misunderstood outcast is torn between the people she loves in two worlds---sand or sea. She must learn to trust the Maker, find her voice, acceptance, love and peace to fulfill her destiny or lose everything and die in the pursuit.

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### **Jennifer Kellie says**

This rethink of the Little Mermaid was not terrible, I just found it dragged on and on. Also, it felt like the editor told the author she was using 'fathom' too often, so she just randomly switched out to other distances. At one point Arianna swims a parsec, which is ridiculous, since a parsec is 3.25 light years. Later she says "not a square foot in 20 cubits," which doesn't make sense as a cubit is ~18 inches, and is NOT a measure of area.

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### **Sarah Ruth says**

This book was so good!!! I wasn't sure how I could be swept into a mermaid tale, but it surely happened. I love the complexities of the characters - between their choices and their personalities you could truly connect to their perspectives. Another thing I enjoyed was the characters growth and communication with "the Maker". As a Christian I loved reading a book where the characters success required them to be bold, put themselves in danger, etc, but ultimately they leaned on their Maker for the ultimate outcome. For anyone wondering, this is a journey worth going on.

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### **Ianthe Silverfire says**

As much as I adore Disney I tend to roll my eyes when a fairy tale retelling follows the movie so closely. However, The Little Mermaid is kind of a difficult beast. The Disney film is one of the few I really dislike, and the original by Hans Christian Anderson is kind of a bummer.

This book followed the Disney film plot loosely and then improved on it. I liked it a lot! I've read another book by this author and enjoyed it as well. She really excels at making her foreign cultures seem real. The mermaid city felt weird, different, and real.

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### **C.M. says**

Okay, I'm in shock. Who switched out this author? I read her first novel, Before Beauty, a while back and didn't really like it. Fichter showed talent, but the story had problems and I really didn't like the MCs. I almost didn't bother to come back to this author, but I'm glad I did, because this novel couldn't be more different from the last one.

The scenery and setting were alive and vibrant, the plot tight and solid. And while near the beginning I did, for a time, dislike Michael, He redeemed himself and by the end I was thoroughly in love with the characters. I just wish the ending had been longer. It seemed slightly rushed. I can only hope that someday

the author will put up a bit of bonus content - or maybe a sequel.

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## **Summer says**

I really enjoyed this new take on the classic tale of the Little Mermaid. This was fun to read, even though I was confused at what happened at some points. I am not sure if the confusion is because I read it wrong or if it was just unclear overall.

So far I have really enjoyed the CLassical Kingdoms Collection.

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## **Viviane says**

I really enjoyed this twist on the mermaid's tale overall. I smiled at the images conjured at times, which were very Disney, but a nice nod, rather than a cheap take. I loved a lot of the set up, tidy as it was.

It feels like a lot of thought went into it and it is a lot more complex than the original tale, with twists and turns that allow for novel plot development. For that it gets an extra star. It had a nice flow overall, though I did catch myself wondering at the overall pacing a time or two.

There are plot problems. Solid ones, no matter how hard I tried to work past them. Looking back it feels like the author tried to set up one story line with possible resolutions and then changed her mind to try and keep it fresh, but it introduced holes instead, making me wonder if I just missed a chapter a time or two.

So many ideas all woven into one. Is that where the problems came in?

I'd still say read it if you love fairytale retellings, it is sweet and takes you on a journey that is fun and diverting. Characters are well loved. Just...know that if you do a double take a time or two take it with a pinch of salt and keep reading.

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